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Amateur Home Decoration.

Edward Dawson, del.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Subscribers who are either building new houses or are contemplating re-decorating their present homes, are invited to write us for information regarding color harmony and artistic schemes of furnishing. We employ trained skill to solve all questions of interior decoration.

In compliance with the wishes of many of our correspondents to purchase housefurnishing goods in New York, we notify our readers that we have organized a Purchasing Department, and are prepared to purchase goods at prices quoted, without making any charge therefor. We strongly advise those who write to us for decorative color schemes to carefully consider our advice, with the samples of the various materials in hand, which we invariably send with each

reply, so that their minds will be fully made up when they ask us to Purchase the goods, and know that every item of their order is the result of a definite decision. It is impossible to exchange goods after the materials have been cut and shipped, and we hope, in all cases, that the goods as ordered, when sent will be accepted and paid for.

Correspondents when writing us are particularly requested to embody a reply to the following points in their letters:

1. Write legibly and on one side of the paper.
2. Send copy of architect's plan or a rough sketch of the plan of the house, showing size, height and arrangement of rooms, with the north and south aspects clearly indicated.

3. Give particulars of existing wood-work, mentioning the nature of the trim, floor, cornice, picture-moldings and mantel in each room; state what must be retained, and what, if any, specified articles of furniture are desired.
4. State separately the maximum outlay permissible for wall treatments, ceiling decoration (if any), textile hangings, carpets and furniture.
5. Send brief notes of the house, its location, age and environment, and such particulars of the owner's tastes and sentiments bearing upon the matter as would be discovered from a personal interview.
6. Send ten two-cent stamps if samples of paper, carpets, draperies, etc. are desired by mail, otherwise we must express same at inquirer's expense.

ATTRACTIVE SOFA PILLOWS AND OTHER NOVELTIES.

BY CARRIE MAY ASHTON.

AN EFFECTIVE sofa pillow which was recently seen at a woman's exchange was covered with rich black silk embroidered in lovely yellow pansies done in Roman floss. It is square and finished around the edge with a double ruffle of the silk.

Another equally handsome is covered with black satin and embroidered in California poppies. It has a puff around the edge.

A third pillow has a cover of rich golden brown art silk embroidered in white Asiatic couching silk. It is finished with a full ruffle cut on the bias and frayed on the edge.

A most exquisite pillow is covered with crepe de chine of a rich creamy tint, scattered over with forget-me-nots done in Asiatic filo floss.

It is finished around the edge with a single wide ruffle and over that a narrower double one.

A suitable gift for a bride is a large down pillow covered with white art silk dotted here and there with lovely violets. A full puff should finish the edge.

A handsome rose-pillow which is filled with dried rose leaves had a few drops of attar of roses dropped on the leaves before making the pillow. The cover is of sheer white linen embroidered in scattered rose leaves done in Roman floss. A handsome ruffle of the linen cut in scallops and finished in buttonhole stitch done in white Asiatic outline embroidery silk, makes a simple, but effective finish for this unique pillow.

One can never have too many sofa pillows in a house. Many writers of authority insist upon it that there shall be a broad, low, comfortable couch in each room of the house and not less than three sofa pillows to a couch, while some have as many as seven.

There is a great variety of fabrics suitable for covering these cushions. Among them are denim, chintz, pongee, linen, figured terry, art silks, corduroy, satin and crepe.

Whether round, square or oblong, plain, embroidered or decorated with oil or water color paintings, it matters not, as far as style is concerned. Make your pillows appropriate to the rooms they are to be used in and according to your purse. It is by no means the most expensive ones which are most attractive.

Some handsome hangings for book shelves which are both new and original are of golden brown art silk embroidered in yellow Roman floss. Graceful sprays of brown-eyed Susans are the chosen designs for these hangings, and the following lines in quaint letters are also found thereon:—

"Every book that we take up without a purpose is an opportunity lost of taking up a book with a purpose; every bit of stray information which we cram into our heads without any sense of its importance is for the most part a bit of the most useful information driven out of our heads and choked from our minds."

"FREDERICK HARRISON."

A lovely screen whose frame is of orange wood has four panels of white art satin, decorated with exquisite California poppies, painted so perfectly that they rival nature. The following appropriate poem is also inscribed on the screen:—

"Be uttful, golden wild poppies,
That nod in the soft, balmy air,
Well were you chosen the emblem
Of the land of all lands most fair."

Who planted you, golden poppies?
Were you here when the world was new?
Were you painted by the morning?
Do you mirror the sunset's hue?
Do you grow from seeds of bright gold
That are hidden away from sight?
Are you stars come down from the sky
That shine in the radiant light?
Are you golden cups o'erflowing
With jewels of rain drops and dew?
Why are you so constant-hearted
To the state that has chosen you?
With gold you carpet the meadows,
Like the gold-paved 'Land of the Blest';
Wild poppies the flower emblem
Of the state of 'The Golden West.'

"GRACE HIBBARD."

The graceful pepper tree which grows so luxuriantly in California affords many lovely designs for decorative work, both in needlework and painting.

Nothing could be more effective for a guest room than white linen draperies for bed and dressing-table, window hangings, dresser scarf, cushion, handkerchief and glove-cases, decorated in the graceful sprays of pepper blossoms and their leaves.

A pretty room in violet and white contains some very artistic decorative work. The bedspread and bolster cover of creamy art satin are scattered over with violets. The hangings for bed and dressing-table are ornamented in a similar manner.

A luxurious couch has a pretty slumber-borne thrown over the foot, made of creamy wash silk embroidered in violets and bound around the edge with violet colored ribbon. At each corner is a bow of the same ribbon.

A small pillow, noticeable among many others for its daintiness and fragrance, is covered with sheer white lawn with an interlining of violet silk, is embroidered in violets done in Asiatic filo floss, and filled with dried sweet violets.